# Gator Gazette

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917th WING - AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND - STARBASE BARKSDALE AFB, LA. VOL. 6, ISSUE 2, FEBRUARY 1999 page 7

# A-10s drop bombs on Arizona



PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. JESSICA D'AURIZIO

Tech. Sgt. Eldon Ashley saluting Maj. John Ehrenberger as he taxis an A-10 toward the runway for the first sortie of the January deployment at Luke AFB, Ariz.

### By Master Sqt. Jessica D'Aurizio

The 47th Fighter Squadron deployed eight A10s and more than 100 maintenance, operations and support personnel to Luke AFB, Ariz., in January. The squadron provided fighter support to active duty F-16s from the 310th Fighter Squadron in support of operation Century Eagle.

"Usually we are the forward air controllers and the F-16s are the strikers, but we reversed rolls so they could learn to be FAC's," said Lt. Col. Bob Tarter, 47 FS director of operations.

In addition to supporting the F-16 training mission, the A-10s dropped a variety of general purpose live bombs and cluster munitions at the Barry M. Goldwater bombing range in southwestern Arizona.

Approximately 300 live bombs, missiles and rockets were dropped during the deployment. "This gives reservists the opportunity to work with live ordnances; they don't always have this chance at home," said Tech. Sgt. Perry McDaniels, a 917th munitions maintenance technician.

(A-10s continued on page 4)

### **Gator Gazette**

917th Wing Office of Public Affairs 1000 Davis Avenue E Bldg. 6803, Rm. 229 Barksdale AFB, LA 71110 Vol. 6 No. 2 FEBRUARY 1999

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UTA Sunday at 12 p.m. is the deadline for submitting articles to public affairs for publication in the following month's issue of the *Gator Gazette*.

Office hours: Monday through Friday and UTA's 7 a.m. - 4 p.m. Office Phone: (318) 456-9181 Fax: (318) 456-8145



# Commander's Corner A message from the Vice Commander

As you all know, we only have two more UTAs before the Unit Compliance Inspection. The UCI is our chance to demonstrate the capability and professionalism of the 917th Wing. I believe in every member of this team, and trust that you will all do your best. Once again, we have the opportunity to show the world how well the 917th Wing can perform when the pressure is on. Thank you for making this Wing a success.

One program the inspectors will look at is safety. The Chief of Staff of the Air Force has challenged all of us to refocus on safety issues in 1999. Let's respond to that in the 917th and redouble our efforts for safety. I have confidence that you will look out for each other, and make sure safety is an important part of our Wing training program.

On another note, this month we celebrate Black History Month and honor the contributions African-Americans have made to our country. February was chosen because it included the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham

Lincoln. This month affords us the opportunity to reflect on the strength of diversity of our country, and our Air Force. One of our own, 10th Air Force Vice Commander Col. Leon Johnson, will be the keynote speaker at the Black history luncheon, Feb. 17 at 11 a.m. at the NCO Club. His lovely wife, Rita, an

accomplished musician, will inspire everyone with her beautiful rendition of our National Anthem. I hope that many of you will be able to attend and show our support.

I received a great honor during the January UTA, perhaps the greatest honor any commissioned officer can aspire to. Senior Airman Eric McCracken asked me to personally officiate at his reenlistment ceremony. He arranged with his Squadron Commander, Lt. Col. Kevin Wolfe, to have the Oath administered at his Commander's Call on Saturday afternoon. The pride in service demonstrated by



Col. James W. Graves

McCracken, as he reaffirmed his Oath of Office, inspired all in attendance. This set the tone for the message that he delivered to his Squadron-that we must all be 'recruiters' for the 917th Wing if we are to attract and retain the quality people that we need to carry out our mission. To McCraken, Wolfe and the Mission Support Squadron-Well Done!

We can all take pride in the 917th Wing for the contribution we make to our community, our service, and our country. Let your pride shine through in everything you do!

# Chaplain's Corner

By Chaplain (Maj.) Bill Willis, Sr.

February is perhaps best remembered for Valentine's Day – for roses, candy and cards. We might also remember President's Day or the observance of Black History Month.

But, here in Louisiana, most attention turns to Mardi Gras; the annual, excessive revelry that occurs before Ash Wednesday (which this year falls on February 17). Parades and parties abound with many trinkets and masquerade balls.

Few people seem to remember how this all began. Mardi Gras means 'fat Tuesday'. In the Christian church calendar,

it is called Shrove Tuesday, the last day before the season of Lent begins. Lent, of course, is a season of penitence and preparation leading us to celebrate and appreciate the Resurrection of the Lord at Easter.

I can imagine that somewhere along the line, folks began to indulge themselves more and more before Lent. And over time, that developed into the wild and almost frantic partying we see practiced now at Mardi Gras.

Now, I'm not against a good party, but sometimes I wish we all could commit at least as much energy and enthusiasm to the practice of our religious faith. God deserves more of our attention than just what's left over. Bless you during this new year and as you enjoy your blessings, take time or make time to remember your God.

# In brief

# Professional Development Center courses go on Web

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. -Reservists and civilian employees in the Air Force Reserve Command can now shop for Professional Development Center courses on the command's homepage.

On the homepage, surfers can view course information by going to the Headquarters AFRC Directorate, then Professional Development Center, and Courses.

Under each course heading on the homepage, people can get the course descriptions, requirements, enrollment procedures, dates, points of contact and other details. (AFRC News Service)

# AAFES uniform catalogs offered online

DALLAS - Always free to U.S. service members, the new military clothing catalogs from the Army and Air Force Exchange Service are now available worldwide instantly via the Internet at <a href="https://www.aafes.com">www.aafes.com</a>. The Internet catalog version is designed to provide shopping convenience to active duty and reserve service members who live miles from a military clothing sales store.

Just as in the store, soldiers or

airmen purchase clothing record items at the same price AAFES pays the supplier. Additionally, both the Air Force and Army military clothing catalogs have a variety of optional uniform items and accessories from which to choose.

Online purchases require a major credit card or Deferred Payment Plan account. Catalog orders processed by phone or mail can be paid for by check.

Uniforms are a proud part of military life and uniform shopping is a necessity. AAFES is proud to make the shopping part of military life easier.

# Thanks for caring-CFC

Thanks to each and every one of you for your caring contributions to this year's most successful Combined Federal Campaign. It is truly a pleasure to give back to the Barksdale community and worthwhile national and international charities and organizations via this campaign. This year the 917th surpassed all expectations and previous gifts - demonstrating once again the kindness and caring of some truly giving people in this unit. You made a difference....

# Tiger team to address Y2K issues

The year 2000 problem is the inability of many computers and computer-based devices to handle dates correctly when the year changes from 99 to 00.

The problem is amplified since computers don't behave in predictable ways when calculations go wrong.

The year 2000 problem has various roots. The principle source of the problem is that "once upon a time," computers were expensive and people were cheap. In order to save computer memory (and therefore money), programmers represented the years with two digits (saving two digits for every date). This practice has remained in place until recently.

There is no one-size-fits-all solution to the Year 2000 problem. The Air Force is addressing the issue in a two-pronged attack. One is to address the Automated Information System (AIS) and weapons system impacts, and one is to address Year 2000 infrastructure.

The 917<sup>th</sup> Wing developed a Y2K Tiger Team to address the issues for the Wing. They are busy developing Contingency of Operations Plans better known as COOP; they are also inventorying hardware and software to assess and implement plans.

Hopefully, with a lot of hard teamwork, the problem will be transparent to personnel in the 917<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions, please contact John Webster at 456-9076.

# Computer classes begin

Computer classes will be held at the Base Education Center, Rm. 106, March 6-7. The class offered will be Introduction to Computer Concepts, 9-11 a.m.,

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# Medical squadron provides

By Tech. Sgt. Arline Johnson

The 917 Medical Squadron has changed the physical examination process slightly.

The exams are still completed in two parts. Those scheduled for Part I will complete the necessary paperwork, have lab work drawn and end at the Dental Clinic. Dental examinations are scheduled every 15 minutes beginning at 7:30 a.m. The member will be given an appointment to return the following UTA for completion of Part II.

During Part II of the physical examination, the member will report to the flight surgeon's office at the appointed time for the following: height, weight, blood pressure, vision, hearing and EKG testing as well as physician or physician assistant evaluation. This will give the provider a chance to go over the individual labwork with the member and give them advice if they need to see a private health care provider.

Also remember when you are scheduled for an examination, you must fast (only have water) for 14 hours, no type of caffeine for 12 hours, and no alcoholic beverage for 72 hours.

Sgt. Margaret Mayweather at 456-9859. Contact your unit scheduler to cancel Part I or II -- at least 72 hours and no later than 24 hours prior to the appointment time unless it's an emergency. The medical squadron now sends no show letters, which make it the responsibility of the unit commander to reschedule the appointment according to the guidelines. If the member fails to reschedule and the physical examination expires, the member is consider nondeployable and not worldwide qualified.

The physical is good for 5 years from the date of examination and expires on the last day of the member's birth month. Females must bring their female examination (an exam conducted within the past 11 months which includes breasts, pelvic and Pap smear examination) from their private provider to the physical examination. Females will have a baseline mammogram at age 40 and one with every long flying and nonflying periodic physical examination. This can be done through the medical squadron or their private health care provider.

Please contact Arline Johnson at 456-9618 or e-mail Johnson.arline@bad.afres.af.mil for further information.



Tech. Sgts. Perry McDaniel and Paul Darling placing the fin on a MK-84 bomb.

(**A-10s** continued from page 1)

The deployment also offered the opportunity for the squadron to simulate a combat search and rescue on the Goldwater range. The 305th Rescue Squadron, a reserve helicopter unit from Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz. assisted with the exercise by rescuing the downed survivor while a four A-10 gunship formation provided close air support.

"We may not be the fastest aircraft, but the A-10 is well suited for forward air control because we can pick out the details," said Maj. Rob Glass, 47th squadron scheduler. "If the enemy gets close to a downed survivor, we can move in and take them out."

The A-10 is built to carry a lot of weapons and is good on fuel, enabling it to provide close air support when someone else many be trying to get to a downed crew or crew member.

After launching the first group of A-10s from Luke, the 310 FS from Luke, experienced a two-seater F-16 aircraft crash during a routine training mission takeoff. "We flew around for awhile waiting for the pilots we had briefed with, but they never showed," said Col. Rick Volden, 47th commander. "We went on and dropped our bomb on the range and returned to see a helicopter circling an area about 1 1/2 miles north of the base. Then we knew what had happened."

The incident only caused the mission to loose six sorties that day, but this was not the only trial the 47th faced during their 10-day deployment. One of the A-10 pilots experienced pain so severe that he had to be taken to the base hospital. This trip resulted in immediate surgery to remove his appendix. According to Volden, his family was with him in Arizona so this helped to comfort him during his recovery.

Luckily, the Command Chief Master Sgt. Jack Scaggs was deployed with the squadron. He soon became known as the caretaker because he not only made sure the troops had good



PHOTOS BY MASTER SGT. JESSICA D'AURIZIO

Tech. Sgt. Warren Wert operating a bomb lift truck in the live load area at Luke AFB, Ariz.

meals and plenty of Gatorade, but he also transported personnel to the hospital, provided laundry support and made sure everyone had a lollypop in their mouth or pocket. Tech Sgt. Shirley Getter, 917th Logistics Support Squadron, compared it to having your mom deployed with you.

"The people at Luke provided excellent support, maybe it's the weather that keeps them smiling," said Senior Master Sgt. Bob Murray, 47 FS maintenance superintendant. "In all aspects, all personnel worked as a team to make the mission a success."



Tech Sgt. Ro Skaggs remove



Capt. James Travi a weapons inspection.



Tech. Sgt.Robert (Flash) Zeller and St

# BD RAG

bert (Flash) Zeller and Chief Master Sgt. Jack ving CBU-87s from bomb trailer.



performing pre-flight



Tech. Sgt. Dean Fitzpatrick preparing the liquid oxygen cart.



aff Sgt. Robert Carter loading a MK-82 to an A-10.

# It's a family affair



PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. JESSICA D'AURIZIO
Tech Sgt. Thaddeus Brown checking the pressure and vent
system on the A-10 after a landing at Luke AFB, Ariz.

### By Master Sgt. Jessica D'Aurizio

The average person spends much of their life with their family. Older children care for their younger sisters or brothers, sharing life experiences. After graduation from high school or college, the majority moves on to begin families of their own, getting together with their siblings during the holidays, weddings, births and deaths.

However, three sets of brothers from the 47th Fighter Squadron challenge that statistic. Not only are these brothers all in the reserve together, but they are all air reserve technicians. This means that on an average they spend more time together than with their own families.

These brothers: the Browns, Thaddeus and Chris; the Murrays, Bill and Bob and; the Phillips, Ronnie, Gary and Jimmy all recently spent more time together when they deployed together to Luke AFB.

Jimmy was asked what brought all three brothers together at the same unit and he jokingly responded because his other two brothers didn't qualify. Three of the five brothers joined the Air Force during the Vietnam Era and now have more than 100 years of experience between them. They have seen the C-124s, A-37s and A-10s at the 917th Wing. All three brothers enjoy their "family affair" even though Gary mentioned he was supposed to get a day off for getting Jimmy to enlist. He never received the day off and thought it was "probably because it was his brother."

The Brown brothers enlisted only a few months apart more than 15 years ago. "We eat and drink the same things and cheer the same teams," said Thaddeus. "You can have all the friends in the world, but there is nothing like a blood member watching your back."

The Murrays just like to have someone in the family they can talk and relate to when it comes to work. This is not hard for them because their father is retired Air Force and they have an older brother and two brother-in-laws also in the Air Force.

Together these brothers bring almost 200 years of experience to the Air Force Reserve. Is it time for you to bring your brother or sister to the recruiting office?

# Voices: What are you doing to prepare for the UCI?



Staff Sgt. Steve Risner 917th Maintenance Squadron

"Getting all prudent paperwork for the self-inspection ready. Checking safety, personnel and maintenance records."



Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Stafford 917th Logistics Support Squadron

"Checking the list, then checking it again. Finding out where all the problems are and finding solutions to them. Making sure my people are ready."



Maj. David Leedon 917th Misson Support Squadron

"Making sure I am doing my job by the list, and making sure all the material items are ready."

# 917th volunteers brave 48,000 football fans



PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. JOHN RESER

Master Sgt. Ken Potter directing an ole Miss fan as Staff Sgt. Eric Brown looks for others that may need assistance.

By Tech. Sgt. John Reser

The crowds were unbearable, no matter where you went in Shreveport/Bossier on New Year's Eve. Waiting lines at restaurants, traffic jams at every intersection; the cities were overflowing with visitors.

While most of us were partying and eating, 36 men and women from the 917th Wing volunteered to carry out a mission. The risks were high and the rewards – well, let's just say the rewards were self-gratification. Their mission was to direct, assist and control more than 48,800 energetic football fans. That's right – football fans.

Instead of participating in New Years' festivities, these men and women volunteered to represent the wing as stadium ushers at the Stanford Independence Bowl. Thousands and thousands of fans came to see the Ole Miss Rebels take on the Texas Tech Raiders. (In case you missed the game, Ole Miss won by a score of 35 to 18.)

Usher responsibilities included crowd control, spectator safety and assistance in the stadium. To ensure the job was done correctly, the ushers had several practice sessions before the game. "The volunteers did a super job, and I want them back next year," Mel Yarnell, Independence Bowl committee member, said.

Most of the ushers said the crowds were very manageable, but a few ushers had to resort to physical measures. "I had to tackle a fan who tried to get on the field and restrain him until security got there," Master Sgt. Allen Atkins, 917th Logistics Group, said. Though some fans were unruly, the majority had a great time.

"It felt good to provide a service and see everyone having a good time," said Staff Sgt. Eric Brown, 917th Maintenance Squadron. "It was good to help."



# **Provides hands-on learning**

### By Belinda Bazinet

Fifth graders in Bossier and Caddo Parishes will get a different view of science, math, technology and goal setting thanks to the 917<sup>th</sup> Wing and the STARBASE LOUISIANA program.

STARBASE, an acronym for Science and Technology Academies Reinforcing Basic Aviation and Space Exploration, engages in activity-based science and math lessons. Begun 12 years ago at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich., the program uses an aviation theme to allow students to view complex information from more than one vantage point.

The program, funded by the Department of Defense, will partner the 917th Wing with Bossier and Caddo Parish schools, who select the participating schools. Each 5th grade class and their teacher will work with the STARBASE staff one full day a week for five weeks, learning about physics, aerodynamics, metric measurement and graphing. The children will put their knowledge into action by building and launching a rocket. Follow-on materials will be provided to teachers to use in their classroom and teacher workshops will be offered during the school year.

"The students will see the everyday

use of science, technology, teamwork, communication and problem solving skills in our military careers," Sheila Schencke, STARBASE Louisiana director, said. "They'll compare and contrast the variety of engineering designs in the planes on display at the 8th Air Force Museum."

The program also teaches students about setting career goals. Using <u>dreams + action = Reality</u>, a book written by Air Force Reserve Lt. Col. Rico Racosky, the students are taught ways to take actions each day to help bring them closer to their positive goals. Community volunteers provide career guidance, helping students find personal importance in staying off drugs, staying out of gangs, staying in school, and choosing to take more science and math classes in high school.

After completing the STARBASE program, participating classes are required to plan and implement a service project benefiting their school or community, which builds self-esteem.

Currently, STARBASE LOUISIANA needs adults to volunteer to "Give Back to America" by presenting Career Cluster information. For further information, contact Schencke at 456-9180.

# **Promotions**

### **Technical Sergeant**

Lara Braddock Jeffery Chatman Ruthanne Dailey Ival Jones Paul Stewart

### **Staff Sergeant**

Joe Bennett Veronica Brice Tammy Dougay Ricky Evans Tony Kendricks Walter Murphy Linda Patton Helen Switzer Joseph Wade

### **Senior Airman**

Harry Anderson Cornelius Hassen John Mattheis Perry Pogue

### **Airman First Class**

Nairobi Williams

### Airman

David Finley Latasha Mitchell

# **SERVICES**

# 917th Military Personnel Flight

Bldg. 6803, Room 140 Saturday

7 - 11 a.m. - Newcomers in-processing.

11 a.m. - 4 p.m. - ID cards, DEERS, reenlistments, DD form 93s, vehicle decals, records review, SGLI, outprocessing.

### Sunday

7 - 8 a.m. - Closed for training. 8 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. - ID cards, DEERS, reenlistments, DD form 93s, vehicle decals, records review, SGLI, outprocessing.

2:30 - 4 p.m. - Closed for training. **NOTE: Proof of marital status,** birth certificates and personal

information on family members are required before accomplishing DEERS enrollment, DD form 93s and family member ID cards.

### Base Billeting

Bldg. 5155, 456-3091/3092 Open 24 hours a day, seven days a week (Reservations required)

# Chaplain

**Bldg. 6803, Room 239, 456-9179** Saturday & Sunday - 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.

# Red River Dining Hall Bldg. 4631

Breakfast - 5:30 a.m. - 6:30a.m. Lunch MS - 11 - 1 47FS - 11:45 WG - 11

MSS - 11:45 93 BS - 11:15 CES - 12 SPS - 12:15 Shuttle service to the dining hall runs

every 20 minutes starting at 11 a.m.. Pickup points are Bldg. 6850 and Bldg. 6825 (northeast side of Bldg. 6803)

NOTE: You must show ID card, newcomer's letter or DD form 1172.

# Family Readiness Center

Bldg. 4713

Saturday & Sunday - 8 - 11 a.m. (no appt. necessary)

# Military drivers license

Military drivers license issue is available on the main UTA in bldg. 6825, Rm. 240. Issue hours are as follows:

Saturday 10 a.m. - noon Sunday noon - 2 p.m.

# 917th Wing Training Schedule

Time Saturday	Event	February UTA 6-7 Location	Participants
0600	UTA prayer breakfast	Red River Inn Dining Hall	Everyone welcome
0630-0700	Sign in	Assigned unit	Personnel assigned
0700	Wing staff meeting	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105	All unit commanders
0700	Short fly physicals	Flight surgeon's office	Flyers
0700-0830	Intro all newcomers	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227 (auditorium)	All newcomers
0730-0800	Physicals	Inside base hospital foyer	See phys exam monitor
0700-1500	Immunizations	Base hospital	1 7
0800	CBWDT refresher	Bldg. 6413 (hanger 7)	As scheduled
0800-1100	MPF in-processing	MPF	All newcomers
0900	Anti-terrorism training	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227	Everyone welcome
0900	OJT training mtg.	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 123	Unit training monitors
0900-1000	Yellow fever shots	Base hospital	C
0900-1000	Chem warfare gear issue	Bldg. 6822, (across from AGE)	As scheduled
0930, 1030 & 1330			As scheduled
1000	First sergeants meeting	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105	First sergeants
1230	Guam deployment meetin		Assigned personnel
1300	CBWDT refresher	Bldg. 6413 (hanger 7)	As scheduled
1300	Wing safety training	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227	Unit safety reps.
1400	Buddy care	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227	As scheduled
1550-1615	Sign-out 1550 CES, N		1610MS
<b>Sunday</b>	,	,	
0630-0700	Sign in	Assigned Unit	Personnel assigned
0715	Devotional service	Bldg. 6825, Rm. 214	Everyone welcome
0730	Admin training	Bldg. 6832, Rm. 211	Assigned personnel
0800-1100	Immunizations	Base hospital	
0800-0900	Human relations	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227 (auditorium)	Newcomers/unit scheduled
0800-1200	EO 2000	Bldg. 4714, 3rd floor	As scheduled
0830 & 1230	EOC testing	Bldg. 4314, 3rd floor (by Burger King)	Scheduled by unit
0900	Unit advisory council	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105	Unit representative
0900	Intranet Web Page	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 123 (T NET)	Personnel assigned
0900	Catholic Mass	Base Chapel 2	Everyone welcome
0900	Substance Abuse	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227 (auditorium)	Newcomers
1015-1100	Protestant services	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227 (auditorium)	Everyone welcome
1030	Family readiness briefing		As scheduled
1300	Initial CBWDT	Bldg. 6413 (hanger 7)	As scheduled
1300	LDP Graduation	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227	Everyone welcome
1300	Eyeglass inserts	Bldg. 4845 (opposite main entrance to base	<u>*</u>
1430	SORTS meeting	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105	Unit commanders
1515	47 FS commanders call	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227	Personnel assigned
1550-1615	Sign-out 1550 CES, N		1610MS

UTA Schedule			
Main	Alternate		
Mar. 6-7	Feb. 20-21		
Apr. 10-11	Mar. 13-14		
May. 1-2	Apr. 17-18		
Jun. 12-13	May 15-16		
Jul. 10-11	Jun. 5-6		
Aug. 7-8	Jul. 17-18		
Sep. 11-12	Aug. 14-15		
•	Sep. 18-19		

West Gate will close at 4 p.m. for the Mardi Gras parade on Saturday of UTA.

917th Wing 1000 Davis Ave. East Barksdale AFB, LA 71110-2287

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